



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Darrin Horn to Address 2011 Graduates

University of South Carolina men's basketball head coach Darrin Horn will speak to the USC Sumter 2011 graduates on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 in the Nettles Auditorium. Coach Horn enters his fourth season at the helm of the Carolina program in 2011-12. Horn has made an immediate impact in the Southeastern Conference in three years as the head coach in Columbia, having led his team to a share of the 2009 SEC East Co-Championship; a victory over Kentucky, a top-ranked team in the nation in 2010; and one of the top recruiting classes in the nation for the 2011 season.

Coach Horn has coached several Gamecocks to postseason accolades, including All-SEC guard Devan Downey to back-to-back Honorable Mention All-America honors in 2009 and 2010; Sam Muldrow to the SEC Defensive Player of the Year Award during his senior season in 2011; and Bruce Ellington, one of the top freshman point guards in the nation, to selection on the SEC's All-Freshman Team this past March.

For his achievements during his first year in Columbia, Horn was named a finalist for the 2009 Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year Award.

Coach Horn also had an immediate impact on his team's off-court success as the Gamecocks enjoyed one of their best academic years in history during the 2008-09 campaign. The squad earned its highest GPA on record (3.007) in spring 2009 after posting its second-highest GPA on record (2.749) in the fall.

Horn has also made an impact on the city of Columbia and its surrounding communities. The inaugural Darrin Horn Ladies Clinic, held in December 2008 and hosted by the Carolina men's basketball staff and players, was a highly successful event that benefited the American Cancer Society and its fight against breast cancer. The 2009 event doubled its numbers and benefited the Jimmy V Foundation, while the 2010 clinic benefited the Palmetto Health Foundation for the Breast Cancer Program Research and Support Services.

Prior to his appointment at the University of South Carolina, Horn was head coach at his alma mater, Western Kentucky University, for five seasons. Coach Horn is married to the former Carla Walker, a Western Kentucky University alumna. The couple has a daughter, Caroline, and a son, Walker.

###